

XXXII.—*Additional Notes on the Ornithology of Transvaal.*

By THOMAS AYRES. Communicated by JOHN HENRY GURNEY.

[Continued from 'The Ibis,' 1885, p. 351.]

[In the following pages the species which had not been previously recorded from Transvaal by Mr. Ayres are numbered consecutively to those previously collected by him in that country.—J. H. G.]

CIRCAËTUS PECTORALIS, Smith. Black-chested Harrier Eagle.

In our winter of 1884 this very handsome Eagle was much more plentiful about Potchefstroom than usual; the following year there were comparatively few about. Specimens sent.

A. Male, adult, Potchefstroom, 4th June, 1884.

B. Female, adult, Potchefstroom, 25th June, 1884 (very small for a female).

C. Female, adult, Potchefstroom, 16th July, 1884. Crop and stomach contained two large toads, both swallowed whole.

D. Female, adult, Potchefstroom, 20th July, 1884. Crop and stomach contained toads.

[I have taken the following measurements of these specimens:—

	Wing. in.	Tarsus. in.	Middle toe <i>s. u.</i> in.
A. ♂	22·00	3·60	1·80
B. ♀	21·60	3·60	2·20
C. ♀	22·20	3·80	2·10
D. ♀	22·50	3·60	2·10

—J. H. G.]

CIRCAËTUS CINEREUS, Vieill. Cinereous Harrier Eagle.

Female, Pilaus Berg, Rustenburg district, 10th July, 1883. Iris yellow; bill black; tarsi and feet greenish white.

I have only met with this species in the warmer districts or bush-veldt.

[In this specimen the feathers of the under surface of the body have no white bases; I have taken from it the following measurements:—

Wing.	Tarsus.	Middle toe <i>s.u.</i>
in.	in.	in.
22·60	3·90	2·85.

—J. H. G.]

MELIERAX GABAR (Daud.). Gabar Hawk.

Male, adult, Limpopo river, 26th May, 1884. Iris and tarsus red.

This bird was very busy amongst the rough-chambered nests of the Red-billed Weaver, *Textor erythrorhynchus*, and was seen to enter six in succession, no doubt in quest of young birds; but his chance of success would have been very much greater had he made his search three months later.

ACCIPITER MINULLUS (Daud.). Little African Sparrowhawk.

Female, adult, Limpopo river, 11th August, 1885.

This little Hawk was chasing with wonderful rapidity and power of twisting and turning, amongst the branches of some high trees, a small Finch which had the greatest difficulty in escaping, and probably would not have done so had not the Hawk caught sight of me as I was standing motionless and watching the chase, when it immediately gave up the pursuit, but settled within easy range of my gun.

377. NISAETUS PENNATUS (Gmel.). Booted Eagle.

Female, Rustenburg, 12th February 1884. Total length in the flesh $19\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Iris hazel; bill slate-colour, but with the base and gape yellow; feet yellow. Was shot while feeding on a hedgehog which it had apparently just killed.

[The specimen sent was in the pale phase of plumage, very similar to a male from France and a female from Morocco, both preserved in the Norwich Museum. I find myself unable to recognize the several allied subspecies into which *N. pennatus* is by some ornithologists subdivided.—J. H. G.]

AQUILA RAPAX (Temm.). Tawny Eagle.

Male, adult, Limpopo river, near its junction with the Pongola river, 27th July, 1884.

Female, adult, Rustenburg, 17th July, 1884.

The last-named specimen had just eaten a chicken when it was shot.

BUTEO DESERTORUM (Daud.). Desert Buzzard.

Male, adult, 4th January, 1885.

Female, adult, 12th January, 1885.

I found several of these Buzzards amongst some mimosas on the Moi river, about twenty-five miles above Potchefstroom, and succeeded in obtaining two of them.

MILVUS ÆGYPTIUS (Gmel.). Yellow-billed Kite.

Female, immature, Marico river, 10th March, 1884.

About Potchefstroom I have for several years past seen but few of these Kites.

CAPRIMULGUS EUROPÆUS, Linn. European Nightjar.

Male, Potchefstroom, 12th February, 1885.

So far as my experience goes, this species is always scarce throughout Transvaal.

CORACIAS CAUDATA, Vieill. Lilac-breasted Roller.

In our winter of 1885 I found this handsome Roller fairly plentiful on the upper portions of the river Limpopo above Vlei Poort, but they were wonderfully shy and so difficult to obtain that in two months I got but two.

CORACIAS NÆVIA, Daud. White-naped Roller.

This species is occasionally to be met with either solitary or in pairs on the banks of the river Limpopo.

MEROPS BULLOCKOIDES, Smith. White-fronted Bee-eater.

A few of these Bee-eaters are to be found during our winter on the river Limpopo, attracting one's attention by their loud and rather harsh notes.

SAXICOLA MONTICOLA, Vieill. Mountain Wheatear.

This species is widely distributed, and apparently throughout the country, being found here and there in suitable

localities; buildings suit it well, and were it undisturbed it would soon become common in Potchefstroom.

[The many variations of plumage to which this Wheatear is liable may make it desirable to append the following descriptions of two specimens now sent by Mr. Ayres.

Male, immature, Potchefstroom, 6th January, 1885. Entire upper and under surfaces blackish brown (but brownest on the abdomen), excepting, however, the shoulder-patch and upper tail-coverts, these are white, but the feathers composing the former have their bases and shafts black; the tail in this specimen presents the following peculiarities—one rectrice of the central pair is black throughout, the other is black except the basal moiety of the exterior web, which is white, the remaining rectrices are white, but tipped, more or less extensively, with black.

Male, Potchefstroom, 12th January, 1885. In this specimen the plumage is black above and below, with the following exceptions:—The crown of the head is brownish grey, interspersed with a very few apparently newer white feathers; the shoulder-patch resembles that of the preceding specimen, but with the white more extended; a few unmoulted feathers on the upper surface are dark brown, the newer adjoining feathers being black; the tail, which is in process of moult, has the exterior pair of rectrices old and entirely white, the other rectrices, which are only partially developed, being black, but with white bases to some of the lateral ones; the upper tail-coverts and the tips of some feathers of the under tail-coverts are white.—J.H.G.]

SAXICOLA GALTONI (Strickl.). Galton's Wheatear.

This species is sparsely distributed on the Upper Limpopo river, and also amongst the mimosas in the Potchefstroom district.

PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS (Linn.). European Willow warbler.

Male, Potchefstroom, 10th January, 1885.

This species migrates every year to Transvaal during our summer months.

ACROCEPHALUS BÆTICATUS (Vieill.). South-African Reed-Warbler.

This species leaves Transvaal in April, and appears again with other migrants in our early spring. I am more in the swamps and amongst the reeds in our winter than in summer, but have never met with one of these Warblers in winter, either amongst sedges, reeds, or hedgerows, where in summer they are plentiful; neither is it found in winter in the more northern and warmer districts of Transvaal. The nests of this species vary a good deal in size and appearance, some in fact look as if they had been added to year by year, though this could scarcely be so.

CINNYRIS MARIQUENSIS (Smith). Southern Bifasciated Sun-bird.

These Sun-birds are found very sparsely on the Limpopo river during our winter months, feeding amongst the aloes which grow plentifully on the dry stony ridges; the males frequently fight and chase each other about with much vigour, although it is not the breeding-season.

HIRUNDO RUSTICA, Linn. Chimney Swallow.

Male and female, Potchefstroom, 12th January, 1885.

I found these Swallows, mostly young birds, congregating on the mimosas in company with *H. cucullata*.

[Both specimens sent appear to be birds of the previous spring, in course of change into adult dress.—J. H. G.]

MUSCICAPA GRISOLA, Linn. Spotted Flycatcher.

Potchefstroom, 12th January, 1885.

The Spotted Flycatcher is a regular summer migrant to Potchefstroom, though by no means in great numbers.

PACHYPRORA MOLITOR (Hahn & Küst.). White-flanked Flycatcher.

This is a very scarce species on the river Limpopo; I saw but two, both solitary, during the two winter months which I spent in that locality.

[Mr. Ayres has sent a specimen, evidently a male, and so marked by him, in which both ends of the pectoral band are

rufous, and with a slight rufous tinge on the centre of the otherwise white throat; these peculiarities are probably the remains of immature plumage resembling the dress of the adult female. A similar stage of plumage has been recorded by Mr. Sharpe in the young males of two allied species, *Platystira cyanea* and *Pachyprora senegalensis* (vide Ibis, 1873, pp. 158 & 164).—J. H. G.]

LANIUS COLLARIS, Linn. Fiskal Shrike.

Female, Potchefstroom, 26th April, 1884. Stomach contained grasshoppers.

This Shrike, and also *Laniarius silens*, is sparsely distributed amongst the mimosa bushes growing on the ridges of the Mooi river valley in the Potchefstroom district.

ENNEOCTONUS COLLURIO (Linn.). European Red-backed Shrike.

Males, immature, Potchefstroom, 6th, 10th, and 16th January, 1885.

The Red-backed Shrike is found in the same localities as the two species last mentioned, but is perhaps sometimes more plentiful.

[In all three of the specimens sent the assumption of the adult dress has just commenced.—J. H. G.]

TELEPHONUS SENEGALUS (Linn.). Senegal Tchagra Shrike.

These Shrikes are by no means uncommon on the river Limpopo, and one or two may often be seen amongst a company of small birds which frequently collect together without any apparent cause. [In previous volumes of 'The Ibis' I have erroneously applied the specific name *erythropterus* to Natal and Transvaal examples of this species.—J. H. G.]

LANIARIUS ATROCOCCINEUS (Burch.). Crimson-breasted Bush Shrike.

These birds are tolerably common on the Upper Limpopo, amongst the thorny and dense mimosas which bear the name of cat-thorns, where it is not always an easy matter to follow them or even to get a bird that has been shot.

CRATEROPUS BICOLOR, Jard. Pied Babbling Thrush.

On the Upper Limpopo, above Vlei Poort, I saw several flocks of this species in June and July 1885, and almost always found a single bird, or a pair, of *Laniarius coccineus* in their company, and hunting with them on the ground for their insect diet.

378. LAMPROCOLIUS SYCOBIUS, Peters. Peters's Glossy Thrush.

Male, river Limpopo, 3rd July, 1884.

This beautiful Grakle is plentiful during our winter about some parts of the river Limpopo.

LAMPROTORNIS AUSTRALIS, Smith. Burchell's Glossy Thrush.

Burchell's Glossy Thrush is the commonest of the Grakles on the river Limpopo, and next to it, in point of numbers, comes *Lamprocolius phænicopterus*; both species are very shy and difficult to get within range of, but both may often be seen feeding on the ground in company, frequently also together with Francolins and other birds.

Burchell's Glossy Thrush is very handsome when in good plumage, and is furnished with ample wings and tail; its flight is much more heavy than that of most of the other Grakles.

[On comparing four males of *Lamprotornis australis* with four females, all obtained by Mr. Ayres near the river Limpopo, I observe that the males are considerably the larger; taking the largest specimen of each sex, I find the following differences of size :—

	Wing. in.	Tarsus. in.	Tail. in.
Male	7·50	1·85	6·70
Female	6·75	1·70	5·75

—J. H. G.]

379. PHOLIDAUGES LEUCOGASTER (Gmel.). White-bellied Glossy Thrush.

[This species, as well as the nearly allied *P. verreauxi* recorded in 'The Ibis,' 1884, p. 228, occurs in the Rustenburg

district; Mr. Ayres has sent me an adult male of each race from thence, both shot in December 1883.

P. verreauxi ranges as far north as Mombasa, from whence I received an adult male, which was also recorded in 'The Ibis' for 1881, p. 127.—J. H. G.]

TOCKUS ERYTHORHYNCHUS (Gmel.). African Red-billed Hornbill.

These Hornbills are plentiful about the river Limpopo, both singly and in small companies; in our winter months, when fruits are scarce, they may be often found feeding on certain bulbous roots which grow plentifully in patches along the banks of the river, and of which the Francolins are also particularly fond. It is not an uncommon occurrence to flush a lot of Francolins, Jardines, Babbling-Thrushes, Spreos, and these Hornbills all together; they evidently feed together very amicably on much the same diet, though the Spreos, no doubt, look out for insects more than for bulbs.

[Mr. Ayres has sent five specimens of this Hornbill, obtained by him in the neighbourhood of the river Limpopo, and from these I have taken the following measurements:—

	Culmen. in.	Wing. in.	Tail. in.
Male, shot 9th July	2·90	7·90	8·30
Female, shot 6th July	2·55	7·20	8·20
Female, shot 12th June	2·50	7·05	7·45
Female, shot 9th July	2·45	7·25	7·30
Female, shot 9th July	2·10	7·15	7·30

In all these specimens the ear-coverts are white, but with the central portion of each feather slaty black, which causes a general effect of dark grey; the feathers above the ear-coverts are similarly marked, but with the white in each feather much more predominant.—J. H. G.]

ESTRELA ERYTHRONOTA (Vieill.). Black-cheeked Wax-bill.

Male, Vlei Poort, river Limpopo, 5th August, 1885.

This is not a common species on the banks of the Limpopo, but when found it is generally in small companies amongst

thorn-bush, often alighting amongst the grass for the small seeds abundantly strewn upon the ground.

LAGONOSTICTA RUBRICATA (Licht.). South-African Ruddy Waxbill.

Male, river Limpopo, 11th July, 1885.

PYROMELANA TAHA (Smith). Taha Bishop-bird.

This little Bishop-bird has now (1886) almost disappeared from the neighbourhood of Potchefstroom; why, I know not.

PYTELIA MELBA (Linn.). Southern Red-faced Finch.

These beautiful little birds affect the dense thorn-bush in preference to more open places; they are generally tame and easily got when found; one scarcely ever finds more than a pair together.

HYPHANTURGUS OLIVACEUS, Hahn. Cape Weaver-bird.

About Potchefstroom the birds of this species are much brighter in plumage this season (1886) than I have ever noticed them previously.

FRINGILLARIA TAHAPISI (Smith). Rock Bunting.

This species frequents the rough, rocky, scrubby ranges on the upper parts of the Mooi river, where it is not uncommon.

[Judging from dissected specimens sent by Mr. Ayres, it would seem that the females are brown on those parts of the head which in the adult males are black.—J. H. G.]

MIRAFRA NÆVIA (Strickl.). Dark-lined Lark.

These Larks are rather common amongst the thorn-trees on the banks of the Limpopo, where they occur either singly or in pairs. When disturbed they usually settle on the top of some low thorn, and remain till the cause of alarm has disappeared, when they return to the ground in search of seeds and insects.

MIRAFRA NIGRICANS (Sund.). Wahlberg's Lark.

Male, shot 10th January, 1885. Iris fine hazel-brown; bill dusky brown, with the under mandible bluish, the commissure and gape yellowish; tarsi and feet ashy white.

This is the second specimen of *M. nigricans* which I have met with. I found it amongst the scrubby bush on a rocky range of hills, some couple of miles from the banks of the Mooi river and about twenty from the sources of that stream. My attention was attracted to the bird by its large size, dipping flight, and Pipit-like appearance.

[This specimen, like the previous one obtained by Mr. Ayres and recorded in 'The Ibis,' 1884, p. 231, appears to be partly in immature plumage; and in the present instance the assumption of the adult dress seems to have made but little progress. Both specimens were killed on 10th January, the first in 1882, the second in 1885.—J. H. G.]

CHRYSOCCYX CUPREUS (Bodd.). Didric Cuckoo.

During our present summer months (1886) these Cuckoos are particularly scarce, although in 1885 they were more plentiful than had ever been known before.

COCCYSTES GLANDARIUS (Linn.). Great Spotted Cuckoo.

A male specimen was shot at Potchefstroom on 8th February, 1886, and brought to me in the flesh; but its possessor did not wish to part with it. The stomach of this bird contained a quantity of beetles, principally of a species of *Cetonia*, of moderate size.

This Cuckoo is one of our rarest visitants, though in the Orange Free State my friend, Dr. Symonds of Kroonstad, has killed several.

CAMPETHERA BENNETTI (Smith). Bennett's Woodpecker.

This specimen fell, when shot, from the top of a tree, with a broken wing and at least ten yards from the stem, but hopped very nimbly to the trunk, and before I could run up was out of reach and climbing so rapidly that I was obliged to fire again to secure it. These Woodpeckers are wonderfully quick climbers and are always scarce here.

PŒOCEPHALUS MEYERI (Rüpp.). Meyer's Parrot.

I found a few pairs of these Parrots along the banks of the Limpopo during our winter months.

TURNIX LEPURANA (Smith). Kurrichane Hemipode.

This is an exceedingly scarce Quail in the Potchefstroom district and, I think, more so than was the case in former years. I never remember to have found more than two together.

PTEROCLES BICINCTUS, Temm. Double-banded Sandgrouse.

Male and female found breeding, 27th May, 1884, near the river Limpopo, where my brother met with this species and also *P. namaqua* plentifully, and found them frequenting certain "pans" for their evening drink.

PTERNISTES SWAINSONI (Smith). Swainson's Francolin.

Male and female, river Limpopo, August 1885.

This species is abundant on the Limpopo, and is in the habit of congregating in numbers.

FRANCOLINUS NATALENSIS, Smith. Natal Francolin.

Male, river Limpopo, 15th July, 1885.

This Francolin, called by the Boers "Namaqua Pheasant," is fairly common on the Limpopo, where it frequents the same localities as the preceding species. It is seldom that more than two or three are to be found together.

FRANCOLINUS PILEATUS. Pileated Francolin.

Female, river Limpopo, 4th August, 1885.

This species is much scarcer than either of the two Francolins just mentioned, though it is found in the same localities. It does not congregate like *Pternistes swainsoni*.

FRANCOLINUS GARIEPENSIS, Smith. Orange-river Francolin.

Male, Potchefstroom, 17th April, 1885.

Male, river Limpopo, 26th July, 1885.

Male, river Limpopo, 6th August, 1885.

Each of the above specimens gave a wing-measurement of $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and a total length in the flesh of 14 inches.

According to my experience, this is a very scarce Francolin; but I twice found it in covies amongst rocky hills on the banks of the river Limpopo. It is a fine heavy bird and

excellent eating; the Boers call it the "Mountain-Partridge."

FRANCOLINUS SUBTORQUATUS, Smith. Coqui Francolin.

This is also a decidedly scarce species on the river Limpopo.

EUPODOTIS RUFICRISTA (Smith). Red-crested Bustard.

Male and female, river Limpopo, 20th July, 1885.

This Bustard is somewhat scarce about the Limpopo river, and is not always easily found, though two or three are generally together. Besides its monotonous cry of *goo*, *goo*, it also whistles a short song, which any one unacquainted with this habit would take for the notes of some small bush-bird, such as a Shrike or Thrush.

CREX EGREGIA (Peters). Greater African Crake.

Potchefstroom, 25th February, 1885.

This Crake continues to be a scarce species.

TOTANUS GLAREOLA, Linn. Wood Sandpiper.

Male, Potchefstroom, 8th December, 1883.

GALLINAGO MAJOR (Gmel.). Solitary Snipe.

Male, Potchefstroom, 6th April, 1885. Weight 8 oz.

380. ARDEA MELANOCEPHALA, Vig. & Childr. Black-necked Heron.

Male, Potchefstroom, 20th June, 1884. Field-rats and locusts in the stomach.

Male, adult, Potchefstroom, 22nd July, 1884. Total length in the flesh $36\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Iris tawny yellow, with an outer ring of dark umber; bill dusky brown, but pale on the under mandible; bare skin about the base of the bill and the eye fulvescent whitish; bare portions of the tibiae, tarsi, and feet black.

The Black-necked Heron is by no means uncommon about Potchefstroom during our winter months, and is generally to be found feeding on the ploughed lands, where it is not unusual to see three or four together.

ARDEA PURPUREA, Linn. Purple Heron.

Female, adult, Potchefstroom, 7th June, 1884. Stomach contained small perch.

These Herons are still tolerably numerous about the swamps of the Potchefstroom district, though their numbers are gradually decreasing, owing, no doubt, to the increase of shooting and to the reed-beds where they breed being disturbed by the cutting of the reeds for thatching.

ARDEA RUFIVENTRIS, Sund. Rufous-bellied Heron.

One of these Herons was shot by my brother on the river Limpopo, at its junction with the river Matlabas.

BUTORIDES ATRICAPILLA (Afzel.). African Black-headed Heron.

Male, immature, river Hex, Rustenburg district, 8th December, 1883.

This species is not found in the Potchefstroom district, but is not uncommon here and there in certain localities in the warmer parts of Transvaal.

[As neither edition of Mr. Layard's work describes the immature plumage of this Heron, it may be well to mention that it differs from the adult dress in the presence of a triangular spot of buffy white on each feather of the wing-coverts except those of the least coverts, where the corresponding spots are brown and are also smaller; the scapulars are spotted like the greater coverts, and the interscapular feathers are marked with spots resembling those on the lesser coverts, but not so dark; the sides of the head are streaked alternately with black and brown, and a few minute brown streaks are interspersed amongst the black feathers of the crown; the whole under surface of the body differs from that of the adult bird in being variegated with alternate longitudinal striations of blackish slate-colour and buffy white.—J. H. G.]

ARDETTA PODICEPS, Bon. Rufous-necked Little Bittern.

Female, adult, Potchefstroom, July 1884.

[In 'The Ibis' for 1878, p. 300, I expressed an opinion that an immature Little Bittern, sent by Mr. Ayres from

Potchefstroom, was referable to the northern *A. minuta*; but having recently reexamined this specimen, and compared it with numerous examples both of *A. minuta* and of *A. podiceps*, I am disposed now to refer it to the latter species, and to believe that *A. minuta* has not been satisfactorily identified as a native of South Africa. The two species (or rather subspecies) are, in fact, very closely allied, and, when in immature plumage and not sexed, cannot always, as it seems to me, be discriminated with certainty.

It may perhaps be useful to record the following memoranda which I have noted with reference to these two races of Little Bitterns :—The adult males of *A. podiceps* have the sides of the head and also the sides and back of the neck of a vinous brown, with more or less of a rufous tinge, whilst the corresponding parts in the adult males of *A. minuta* are of a somewhat pale fawn-colour, which is occasionally suffused with a very slight tinge of grey. The adult females of both species have the sides and back of the neck of a rufous brown, but the rufous tint is decidedly deeper and richer in the females of *A. podiceps* than in those of *A. minuta*, and both in the females and immature birds there is a general tendency in the southern race to exhibit a slightly deeper tint on the brown portions of the plumage than is usual in the more northern species. Except as above mentioned, I do not find that the two races differ in coloration; but the average dimensions of specimens of *A. minuta* are slightly larger than those of *A. podiceps*, the measurements of male birds of both species being usually a little in excess of those of the females, which makes it needful to compare individuals of the same sex in discriminating the two races.

The following measurements (in inches and decimals) have been taken from specimens in the collections of my son, Mr. J. H. Gurney, Jun., and myself, and from others kindly lent me by Canon Tristram, Mr. Dresser, and Mr. Seebohm; the examples of *A. podiceps* are all from Transvaal, except one adult male in my collection from the Gaboon, which is the most northern example of the southern race with which I am acquainted.

Ardetta podiceps.

Males.

	Wing. in.	Tarsus. in.	Middle toe s. u. in.	Bill from forehead. in.
Adult, R. Gaboon	5.40	1.60	1.60	2.00
Adult, Transvaal	5.45	1.60	1.65	1.90
Adult, Transvaal	5.65	1.65	1.50	1.95
Nearly adult, Transvaal	5.20	1.60	1.40	1.90
Immature in change, Transvaal	5.55	1.60	1.50	2.05
Adult, Transvaal	5.60	1.70	1.65	1.90

Females.

Adult, Transvaal	5.55	1.60	1.60	1.90
Adult, Transvaal	5.05	1.50	1.50	1.90
Nearly adult, Transvaal	5.05	1.50	1.45	1.90
Immature, Transvaal . .	5.10	1.60	1.60	1.85
Immature, Transvaal . .	5.20	1.60	1.55	1.70
Adult, Transvaal	5.00	1.60	1.55	1.80

Ardetta minuta.

Males.

Norfolk, adult	6.15		1.50	1.90
Holland, immature	6.00	1.65	1.60	1.75
France, adult	6.05	1.60	1.55	1.90
Malta, adult	6.20	1.60	1.60	1.95
Malta, adult	6.10	1.60	1.65	1.90
Tunis, adult	5.85	1.70	1.60	1.90
Egypt, adult	6.05	1.80	1.60	2.00
Syria, immature	6.00	1.70	1.65	1.90
Turkestan, adult	6.20	1.85	1.65	1.95

Females.

Norfolk, adult	5.70		1.40	1.80
Sussex, immature	5.55	1.65	1.45	1.90
Italy, adult	5.85	1.70	1.60	
Algeria, adult	5.95	1.75	1.60	2.00
Algeria, adult	5.55	1.60	1.50	1.90
Egypt, nearly adult	5.90	1.60	1.40	1.80
Transcaucasia, nearly adult	5.50	1.60	1.50	1.90

J. H. G.]

381. *CICONIA ALBIMII*, Licht. White-bellied Stork.

Female, January 8th, 1885. Iris light tawny brown; bill reddish at the tip, greenish at the base; bare skin round the eye and about the chin red; feet and front part of the tarsi, also the uncovered part of the tibiae, dusky brown.

Another female, killed the same day, differed in having the entire tarsi a dingy brick-red and the bare skin in front of the ear bluish.

I killed the birds now sent about thirty miles from Potchefstroom, near the Mooi river. These Storks are often to be seen in various parts of the Potchefstroom district in the rainy season, *i. e.* during our summer months. They are always in companies, though I have not seen them here in the vast numbers sometimes to be found in other parts of South Africa.

382. *CICONIA NIGRA*, Linn. Black Stork.

Male, Potchefstroom, June 12th, 1884. Bill and bare skin round the eye bright dark crimson; feet, tarsi, and bare part of tibiae very bright scarlet. Stomach contained small perch and crabs.

This very handsome Stork, the first of the species that I have ever had, was shot just outside the town of Potchefstroom in a swamp where many water-birds are often to be found. It was a solitary specimen.

383. *MYCTERIA SENEGALENSIS*, Shaw. African Jabiru.

Female, Rustenburg district, 2nd April, 1883.

This is a rare species with us. The specimen sent was shot near Rustenburg. I do not remember to have ever seen it in the Potchefstroom district.

NETTAPUS AURITUS (Bodd.). African Dwarf Goose.

The specimen sent is one of two that were observed in a swamp about a mile from the town of Potchefstroom. This species is of very rare occurrence here, but, being much less shy than most of the water-fowl, it is comparatively easy to shoot it.

384. [*BAZA VERREAUXI* (Lafr.). Verreaux's Baza.

This species was obtained, not unfrequently, by Mr. Ayres

in Natal; but as he has not recorded it from Transvaal, I may take this opportunity of mentioning that an adult specimen sent from Transvaal to Mr. Whitely, of Woolwich, has lately been added to the Norwich Museum.

This, however, is not the most northern locality in which this species is found. There is, in the Norwich Museum, an adult example from the district of the Zambesi; and Captain Shelley possesses another obtained at Rabbai, near Mombasa, as recorded by him in the P. Z. S. 1881, p. 562.

I have examined several adults of this species, and in all of them I have observed a peculiarity which is not noticed in Mr. Sharpe's description of this Hawk, viz. a patch of dark rufous feathers in the centre of the upper part of the nape, of a somewhat square shape, and measuring from an inch to an inch and a half in vertical, and the same in transverse diameter.

I have only been able to examine three adults of the allied African species, *B. cuculoides*, in all of which there was merely an extremely slight trace of rufous on the nape, in place of the conspicuous patch exhibited by the adults of *B. verreauxi*. I may add that there appears to be a noteworthy difference in the colouring of the soft parts of these two nearly allied species. Mr. Ayres, referring to an adult female of *B. verreauxi* in 'The Ibis' for 1864, p. 356, describes the iris and cere as "light yellow" and the tarsi and feet as "yellow;" whilst Mr. J. Büttikofer states that, in a male of *B. cuculoides* obtained by him in Liberia, the iris was "red" and the "cere and feet orange" (*vide* 'Notes from the Leyden Museum,' vol. vii. p. 156).

The most striking distinction between the two African species of *Baza* is, however, that of the colouring of the under wing-coverts described by Mr. Sharpe in the British Museum Catalogue, vol. i. p. 351.—J. H. G.]

[I am desirous to take this opportunity of correcting an error which I made in 'The Ibis,' 1885, p. 349. I there referred to certain measurements of *Herodias intermedia* as "given by Mr. Sharpe;" but I ought to have said "given by Mr. Ayres."—J. H. G.]